Date	Rs. per Euro*	Date	Rs. per Euro*	Date	Rs. per Euro*
Jan. 14	49.4988	Feb. 11	48.0713		
Jan. 15	49.8088	Feb. 12	47.6963		
Jan. 18	49.3050	Feb. 15	47.8675		
Jan. 19	49.1575	Feb. 16	47.6038		
Jan. 21	49.1900	Feb. 17	47.7250		
Jan. 22	49.3425	Feb. 18	47.8313		
Jan. 25	49.2888	Feb. 19	47.5013		
Jan. 27	48.9913	Feb. 22	46.7613		
Jan. 28	48.6850	Feb. 23	46.7963		
Jan. 29	48.5000	Feb. 24	46.7425		
		Feb. 25	46.9763		
		Feb. 26	46.6613		

*Average of buying and selling FEDAI indicative rates.

Attachment of Fake Accounts and Fixed Deposits in Gurgaon

2256. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the income-tax authorities have attempted to exercise a curb on tax evasion and attached the fake accounts and fixed deposits of about 200 beneficiaries of land compensation in different villages under Gurgaon district in Haryana;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that many beneficiaries have complained of this act as harassment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) In Gurgaon district of Haryana, Income-Tax authorities have provisionally attached fixed deposits belonging to 47 persons totalling Rs. 5.73 crores under Section 281-B of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for a period of six months. These persons were found to have received substantial interest income and capital gains, which were not declared before the income-tax authorities. Out of these 47 persons whose deposits were attached, 23 have now filed their returns of income offering a total tax of Rs. 2.29 crores.

(c) No complaint of harassment has been received in this regard.

Memorandum given by NRIs

2257. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Non Resident Indians (NRIs) businessmen have given a Memorandum to him suggesting some steps for accelerating the industrial growth in India. If so, the details thereof and the reaction of Gvoernment thereto;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they have demanded some concessions and incentives as also some tax benefits; and

(c) If so, the details of the demand made and by when a decision would be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) As part of the Exercises to the Budget for the financial year 1999-2000 Memoranda were received also from

Non-Resident Indian Businessmen, NRI investor forums and other Bodies containing suggestions for further improvement in the investment environment through tax incentives, simplification of procedures/approval requirements for investment in India. Taking into consideration the concerns expressed, the following initiatives have been announced by the Government in the Budget for the financial year 1999-2000 to boost investments by NRIs and other foreign investors:

(i) Extension of the facility of automatic approval route of the RBI to investments upto 100% by NRIs/OCBs for all items, except:

— those which attract notified FDI equity caps;

— items requiring compulsory licensing; and

— items reserved for public sector;

— items reserved for small-scale sector.

(ii) Permission to opening of Trading terminals of major stock exchanges abroad to facilitate participation of NRIs in the Indian capital markets.

(iii) Simplification of the existing RBI approval mechanism for NRI investments in Indian mutual funds to a post-facto reporting mechanism.

(iv) Creation of a Foreign Investment implementation Authority within the Ministry of Industry to ensure quick translation of FDI approvals into actual inflows.

(v) Wherever FIPB clearance is required, decision to be given within 30 days.

(vi) Expansion of the list of activities for automatic approval covering important industrial and service sectors to ensure hassle free flow of Foreign Direct investments.

A suggestion for abolition of tax deduction at source in respect of the proceeds of non-repatriable investments that are credited to Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) Bank Accounts of NRIs, was examined and found not feasible to implement.

Efforts of CBDT to Bail out Japanese MNCs

2258. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in 'The Hindu', dated the 16th February, 1999, it is a fact that Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is making hectic efforts to bail out some Japanese multi-national companies found guilty of evading massive taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this step is lowering the morale of some domestic companies which are facing stringent action for similar offence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) During certain surveys carried out by the Income Tax Department, it was found that certain foreign companies were paying a substantial part of the salaries and the allowances to their ex-partiate employees abroad, on which the requisite taxes were not being deducted. All such companies which were surveyed, and many other companies who have come voluntarily, declared these amounts as a result which a total of Rs. 484 crores of tax and interest became due. Out of this amount Rs. 478 crores has already been recovered. All such cases, whether belonging to foreign companies or to domestic companies, will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961.